

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Fossil Macropod Tooth from Gingin.—While searching for Cretaceous fossils in the Gingin district in 1969, I found a macropod tooth fragment in a gully on the north east face of Moorgup Hill. This was identified by Dr. D. Merrilees (Western Australian Museum) as the hinder part of a molar of a species of the extinct genus *Protemnodon* (in the restricted sense). The specimen, which I have in my possession, is embedded in chalky matrix. The Western Australian Museum has a plaster cast, No. 69.9.10. Mrs. R. Roe (who recently found a *Zygomaturus* mandible in McIntyre Gully), Dr. Merrilees and I together re-examined the Moorgup Hill site, but we found no other specimen resembling mine, nor have I on subsequent visits. It seems likely that Moorgup Hill, like McIntyre Gully, includes patches of a Quaternary breccia made up mainly of fragments of Cretaceous sedimentary rocks, and including mammalian fossils. But up to the present, it has been impossible to define the areal extent or thickness of such patches, or to visualize their relationship with the underlying marine sediments or with the existing topography.

—M. A. TYRER, Perth.

White Ibis and Glossy Ibis in South-Western Australia.—During a visit to Lake Jandabup about three miles east of Wanneroo on February 5, 1970, I noticed a party of White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) feeding in company with Straw-necked Ibis (*T. spinicollis*) on a small swamp just north of the main lake.

The swamp was almost dry and it was the white plumage of the birds contrasting with the black mud which first attracted my attention. With the aid of binoculars (16 x 56) I located 15 birds on the swamp, some feeding and some perched on the burnt paper barks (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) fringing the swamp margin.

On February 6 I visited North Lake and Bibra Lake and located a party of 13 White Ibis in a small muddy swamp adjacent to North Lake. The birds were feeding in association with Swamphens (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) in a patch of burnt bulrushes (*Typha domingensis*) and paper bark. Whilst under observation the birds were disturbed by passing motor cars and disappeared in the direction of North Lake.

Small parties of White Ibis have been recorded in the South-West on several occasions, but sightings seem to have increased in recent years, with the current summer yielding the largest flocks so far recorded (Jenkins, *W. Aust. Nat.*, 11, 1968: 46).

Sightings of the Glossy Ibis are less frequent than those of the White Ibis and flocks are seldom, if ever, seen in the South-West. It is of interest, therefore, to record that four Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) and one White Ibis were seen feeding with about 20 Straw-necked Ibis in Benger swamp in December 1967.

—C. F. H. JENKINS, Department of Agriculture, Perth.

Pelicans Feeding on Cobbler Heads.—At present (April 1970) professional fishermen are catching large numbers of Cobblers (*Cnidogobius megastoma*) in their nets set in Wilson's Inlet on the south coast. Some of these fish are large, weighing up to 4lb. but the average would be 1-1½lb. Before cobblers are sent to market the head is cut off behind the pectoral and dorsal fins which sheath the poison spines, and the fish gutted. The heads and viscera are usually thrown into the shallow water at the edge of the inlet. The Silver Gulls (*Larus novaehollandiae*) quickly dispose of the viscera leaving the heads untouched. Pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) then move in and dispose of all the heads. The heads are picked up singly, juggled for a few seconds in the pouch of the beak and then swallowed. Each head has three very strong, rigid poisonous spines protruding from it but these seem to cause no inconvenience to the birds. The head of a 4lb. Cobbler is a fearsome thing with poison